GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3209
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2006
RAILWAY LINE FROM CHANDRANATHPUR TO GUWAHATI
Suklabaidya Shri Lalit Mohan

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that a survey was conducted in the 80's for construction of new railway line from Chandranathpur to Guwahati via Lanka and Jagi Road that would reduce travel time from Barak Valley to Guwahati by 8 hours;

(b) if so, the details of findings of the survey;

(c) whether construction work of new line was viewed feasible; and

(d) if not, the duration of the survey, cost incurred for its conduction, and the reason for it inconclusive termination despite the immense benefits the new rail line could have provided to such a large population ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (d): A survey for construction of new broad gauge line between Lanka and Silchar (209 km) was carried out during 1984-85 and the same was updated including alternative broad gauge conversion of existing meter gauge line from Lumding to Silchar via Chandranathpur in the year 1995-96. As per the survey, the cost of construction of the new line was assessed as Rs.2166 crore with negative rate of return. The alternative of conversion was approved and taken up considering various technical & financial aspects into view.

The updating survey was completed in about 9 months time at a cost of Rs.6.25 lakhs.